




22 September 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0156

Tēnā koe 

**Official Information Act request for an unredacted version of a 2021 COVID-19 briefing about the domestic use of COVID-19 vaccination certificates**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 1 September 2025. You requested:

*“Please provide an unredacted version of the Joint Briefing dated 17 Sep 2021 titled: INITIAL ADVICE ON THE DOMESTIC USE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES.”*

The joint DPMC and Ministry of Health briefing dated 17 September 2021 “*Initial Advice on The Domestic use of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates*” is publicly available on DPMC’s website at: [www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Initial-advice-on-the-domestic-use-of-COVID-19-Vaccination-certificates.pdf](http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Initial-advice-on-the-domestic-use-of-COVID-19-Vaccination-certificates.pdf).

In the light of your request, we have reassessed the information that was withheld from the published version of this briefing. Most of the withheld information was to protect legal privilege. Two mobile phone numbers and a footnote were also withheld.

Legal privilege remains in place and information that was withheld at the time the paper was originally published continues to be withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Alan Cassidy  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer**